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09/976,494	10/12/2001	Tien Mei Kung	1007-009-CIP	3117

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EXAMINER

BARQADLE, YASIN M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2153

DATE MAILED: 01/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/976,494

Applicant(s)

KUNG, TIEN MEI

Examiner

Yasin M Barqadle

Art Unit

2153

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-24 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Osaku et al USPN. (6061738) in view of Risley et al USPN. (6332158).

As per claim 1, Osaku et al teach a method for linking web sites, applied to a system for linking web sites for connecting a user's computer device (fig. 1, 12) to a web site in World Wide Web (fig. 1, 26), wherein the system has a database including IP addresses, and numeric web addresses each corresponding to the respective IP address (fig. 6, storage 110, col. 15, lines 1-13) and having numerals thereof positioned from

Art Unit: 2153

left to right corresponding in sequence to large to small categories of web sites (col. 4, lines 13-30 and col. 6, lines 20 -50); the method comprising the steps of:

(1) inputting a requested web address via a user to the user's computer device (user inputs simplified network address via input device 14, fig.1 col. 4, lines 13-20 and col. 5, lines 17-21), and receiving the requested web address via the system for linking web sites from the user's computer device (URL request is receive via input 14, fig. 1 col. 4, lines 13-30 and col. 5, lines 17-31);

(2) searching via the system for linking web sites in the database for data relating to the requested web address (a search is performed via search engine col. 5, line 53 to col. 6, line 23), wherein if no numeric web address in the database matches the requested web address, then step (3) is followed; if at least one numeric web address similarly matches the requested web address (when unrecognized numeric input is entered an error message is returned col.4, lines 48-57), then step (4) is followed; and if a numeric web address exactly matches the requested web address, then an IP address corresponding to the exactly matched numeric web address is acquired (col.4, lines 57 to col. 5, line and col. 6, lines 2-18) and step (5) is followed,

Art Unit: 2153

(3) sending a message for indicating failure in searching the data relating to the requested web address search via the system for linking web sites to the user's computer device (error message is sent to user computer col.4, lines 48-57), then returning to the step (1),

(4) sending the data relating to similarly matched numeric web addresses via the system for linking web sites to the user's computer device for allowing the user to select one of the data and for acquiring an IP address of the selected datum (when the requested web address is found in a database table, the corresponding URL is returned to user's computer for retrieval col.4, lines 57 to col. 5, line and col. 6, lines 2-18), and then going to step (5); and

(5) searching and linking a web site corresponding to the IP address via the system for linking web sites, and sending a homepage of the web site to the user's computer device, for allowing the user to interact with the web site (col. 6, lines 20-64).

Although Osaku et al shows substantial features of the claimed invention as explained in claim 1 above, he does not explicitly show advising a user to input another requested web address

Art Unit: 2153

Nonetheless, this feature is well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Osaku et al., as evidenced by Risley et al USPN. (6332158).

In analogous art, Risley et al whose invention is about domain system look up allowing intelligent correction of searches and presentation of auxiliary information, disclose a system advising (informing) a user to input another requested web address (correct address) when the previously entered address is invalid [col. 12, lines 1-20]. Giving the teaching of Risley et al, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and the advantage of modifying Osaku et al by employing the user assistance service system of Risley et al because it helps users to locate desired domain names and improves the overall query results [col. 4, lines 58-67 and Col. 7, lines 50-58].

As per claim 2, Risley et al teach the invention, prior to the step (2), further comprising a step of:

inquiring DNS (domain name system) via the system for linking web sites about the requested web address (col.9, lines 10-18), wherein if the DNS replies an IP address, then the IP address is acquired (col. 9, lines 10-35) and the step (5) is

Art Unit: 2153

followed; if the DNS has no reply, then the step (2) is followed [col. 9, lines 19-67].

As per claim 3, Osaku et al teach the method of claim 1, wherein the user's computer device is a computer [col. 4, lines 36-52].

As per claim 4, Osaku et al teach the method of claim 3, wherein the computer includes a browser for allowing the user to input the requested web address thereto [col. 4, lines 37-67 and col. 10, lines 21-26].

As per claim 5, Osaku et al teach method of claim 1, wherein the system for linking web sites comprises:

- the database [fig. 2, 30];

- a receiving module for receiving the requested web address in the step (1) [col. 8, lines 39-58].

- a searching module for searching the data relating to the requested web address in the step (2) [see fig. 1, search engine 34 for searching correspondence relations database];

- a responding module for executing the step (3), (4) or (5) according to a searched result from the step (2) [see fig. 2, URL 38, returns results to user [col. 8, lines 39-58 and col. 9, lines 21-50].

Art Unit: 2153

As per claim 6, Osaku et al teach the method of claim 1, wherein the system for linking web sites is constructed in a server [fig. 6, col. 8, lines 39-58].

As per claim 7, Osaku et al teach the in a computer device connected to a server [fig. 2, 100 and 102 col. 8, lines 39-58].

As per claim 8, Osaku et al teach method of claim 1, wherein the system for linking web sites is integrated into a peripheral device externally connected to a computer device and a server, respectively [fig. 22].

As per claim 9, Osaku et al teach the invention, wherein one part of the system for linking web sites is the method of claim 1, wherein the system for linking web sites is constructed in a computer device, and the other part of the system is constructed in a server connected to the computer device [col. 6, lines 36-50 and col. 20, lines 1-18].

As per claims 10 and 18, these claims include similar limitations addressed in claim 1 and 5 above. Therefore, they are rejected with the same rationale.

Art Unit: 2153

As per claim 11, Risley et al teach the invention, prior to the step (2), further comprising a step of:

inquiring DNS (domain name system) via the system for linking web sites about the requested web address (col. 9, lines 10-18), wherein if the DNS replies an IP address, then the IP address is acquired (col. 9, lines 10-35) and the step (6) is followed; if the DNS has no reply, then the step (2) is followed [col. 9, lines 19-67].

As per claim 12 and 19, Osaku et al teach the invention, wherein the user's computer device is a computer [col. 4, lines 36-52].

As per claim 13 and 20, Osaku et al teach the invention, wherein the computer includes a browser for allowing the user to input the requested web address thereto [col. 4, lines 37-67 and col. 10, lines 21-26].

As per claim 14 and 21, Osaku et al teach the invention, wherein the receiving module, searching module, responding module, and database are constructed in a server [fig. 6, 102].

As per claims 15 and 22, Osaku et al teach the invention, wherein the receiving module, searching module, responding

Art Unit: 2153

module, and database are constructed in a computer device connected to a server [fig. 22, col. 21, line 36 to col. 22, line 29].

As per claims 16 and 23, Osaku et al teach the invention, wherein the receiving module, searching module, responding module and database are integrated into a peripheral device externally connected to a computer device and a server, respectively [fig. 22, col. 21, line 36 to col. 22, line 29].

As per claims 17 and 24, Osaku et al teach the invention, wherein one part of the receiving module, searching module, responding module and database is constructed in a computer device, and the other part thereof is constructed in a server connected to the computer device [col. 6, lines 36-50 and col. 20, lines 1-18].

Conclusion

The prior made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yasin

Art Unit: 2153

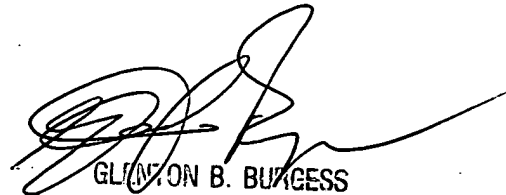
Bargadle whose telephone number is 571-272-3947. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Burgess can be reached on 571-272-3949. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Yasin Bargadle

Art Unit 2153


GLENN B. BURGESS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100